

It's a paradox that this administration has bought some time by giving us so many and such a variety of scandals that we cannot possibly keep up with them. Critics take the measure of one scandal, only to be distracted or overwhelmed by another, and another, and another, seemingly without end.

Kelly's column serves to remind us that the Lewinski affair is only the latest in a series of scandals, and the White House attempt to change the subject merely the continuation of a pattern of dissembling.

Mr. Speaker, I believe our present policy of deferring to the independent counsel is the correct one. Should it ever be found that such dissembling took the form of obstructing justice, we will be faced with a serious decision. If only a fraction of the allegations catalogued by Kelly turn out to be true, the House will be obliged to act. It will do so with a collective feeling of sorrow, but it must not shrink from its responsibilities.

I include the Kelly column in today's RECORD.

I BELIEVE

I believe the president. I have always believed him. I believed him when he said he had never been drafted in the Vietnam War and I believed him when he said he had forgotten to mention that he had been drafted in the Vietnam War. I believed him when he said he hadn't had sex with Gennifer Flowers and I believe him now, when he reportedly says he did.

I believe the president did not rent out the Lincoln Bedroom, did not sell access to himself and the vice president to hundreds of well-heeled special pleaders and did not supervise the largest, most systematic money-laundering operation in campaign finance history, collecting more than \$3 million in illegal and improper donations. I believe that Charlie Trie and James Riady were motivated by nothing but patriotism for their adopted country.

I believed Vice President Gore when he said that he had made dunning calls to political contributors "on a few occasions" from his White House office, and I believed him when he said that, actually, "a few" meant 46. I believe in no controlling legal authority.

I believe Bruce Babbitt when he says that the \$286,000 contributed to the DNC by Indian tribes opposed to granting a casino license to rival tribes had nothing to do with his denial of the license. I believed the secretary when he said that he had not been instructed in this matter by then-White House deputy chief of staff Harold Ickes. I believed him when he said later that he had told lobbyist and friend Paul Eckstein that Ickes had told him to move on the casino decision, but that he had been lying to Eckstein. I agree with the secretary that it is an outrage that anyone would question his integrity.

I believe in the Clinton Standard of adherence to the nation's campaign finance and bribery laws, enunciated by the president on March 7, 1997: "I don't believe you can find any evidence of the fact that I had changed government policy solely because of a contribution." I note with approval the use of the word "evidence" and also the use of the word "solely." I believe that it is proper to change government policy to address the concerns of people who have given the president money, as long as nobody can find evidence of this being the sole reason.

I believe the president has lived up to his promise to preside over the most ethical administration in American history. I believe that indicted former agriculture secretary Mike Espy did not accept \$35,000 in illegal fa-

vors from Tyson Foods and other regulated businesses. I believe that indicted former housing secretary Henry Cisneros did not lie to the FBI and tell others to lie cover up \$250,000 in blackmail payments to his former mistress. I believe that convicted former associate attorney general Webster Hubbell was not involved in the obstruction of justice when the president's minions arranged for Hubbell to receive \$400,000 in sweetheart consulting deals at a time when he was renegeing on his promise to cooperate with Kenneth Starr's Whitewater investigation.

I believe Paula Jones is a cheap tramp who was asking for it. I believe Kathleen Willey is a cheap tramp who was asking for it. I believe Monica Lewinsky is a cheap tramp who was asking for it.

I believe Lewinsky was fantasizing in her 20 hours of taped conversation in which she reported detailed her sexual relationship with the president and begged Linda Tripp to join her in lying about the relationship. I believe that any gifts, correspondence, telephone calls and the 37 post-employment White House visits that may have passed between Lewinsky and the president are evidence only of a platonic relationship; such innocent intimate friendships are quite common between middle-aged married men and young single women, and also between presidents of the United States and White House interns.

I see nothing suspicious in the report that the president's intimate, Vernon Jordan, arranged a \$40,000-per-year job for Lewinsky shortly after she signed but before she filed an affidavit saying she had not had sex with the president. Nor do I read anything into the fact that the ambassador to the United Nations, Bill Richardson, visited Lewinsky at the Watergate to offer her a job. I believe the instructions Lewinsky gave Tripp informing her on how to properly perjure herself in the Willey matter simply wrote themselves.

I believe that The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, Newsweek, Time, U.S. News & World Report, ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, PBS and NPR are all part of a vast right-wing conspiracy. Especially NPR.

NATIONAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN PARENT INVOLVEMENT DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is often said that education is the key to our country's future. While so many individuals give mere lip service to this idea, I am proud to announce that several of my constituents have been working hard to bring education into the limelight it deserves. February 9th of this year will mark the third annual National African-American Parent Involvement Day, a program done in conjunction with the Miami-Dade County School Board. This effort is being chaired by Earl Davis from the Office of Multicultural Education of Miami-Dade County Public Schools and co-chaired by Eunice Davis from North Davis Middle School and Carlos Seales from the Miami-Dade PTA/PTSA Council.

As we all know, parents in our hectic times often do not have the time to take an active role in the education of their children. Quite frequently, they do not know what their children are learning or who is teaching them.

The "Take Your Child to School—Visit Your Child in School" program is a concerted effort by principals, teachers, and other educators to encourage parents to change this disturbing trend. Parents will come into their children's schools to meet teachers, tour the buildings, and learn alongside their youngsters. Employers are also being contacted and encouraged to give interested parents "release time" so that they are able to be with their children on this important day.

I would like to personally commend my constituents who are organizing and participating in this vastly important program. When we consistently hear bad news about our nation's public schools, it is truly refreshing to see individual and community efforts such as these. I join my colleagues in South Florida in hoping that February 9th will initiate open communication between parents, children, and educators throughout the nation. Education truly is the key to the future, and it is programs such as this one that insure that it proceeds in the right direction.

A TRIBUTE TO LA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE SHERMAN SMITH, JR.

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to outstanding Los Angeles Superior Court Judge, the Honorable Sherman Smith, Jr. For nearly two decades, Judge Smith has presided over cases in a fair and forthright manner, earning him the respect of his judicial peers, as well as the admiration of the many members of the bar who have tried cases in his courtroom.

Judge Smith received his undergraduate and law degrees from Howard University in Washington, DC. Following his 1969 graduation from law school, he headed west to Los Angeles, landing a job with the public defender's office, where he helped the poor achieve justice through our legal system. He then spent a year at the L.A. City Attorney's office, working in the appellate department and then as one of the special counsels for then-City Attorney Burt Pines. He worked an additional year with the office as a prosecutor in West Los Angeles before being appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court in 1979 by then-Governor Jerry Brown, Jr. Judge Smith eventually reached the ranks of presiding judge, making substantial changes and working to modernize the court. He served on the Municipal Court bench for nine years.

In 1988 he was elected to a Superior Court seat and has served on the court's budget and personnel committee, chairing the education subcommittee of its access and fairness committee. During this period he was also active in judicial education, serving four years on the California Judicial Education and Research board and teaching for the program.

Judge Smith's commitment to the court and to a fair and equitable judicial system for every citizen honors our system of jurisprudence. I am honored to call him my friend and to have this opportunity to provide this brief retrospective of his exemplary career with my colleagues. I ask that you join me in paying tribute to him for his distinguished contributions to